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Tomason

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(54) **TENT ADAPTED FOR ATTACHMENT TO A COT**

(76) **Inventor:** **Wallace G Tomason**, P.O. Box 373,
Ponderay, ID (US) 83852

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **135/96; 135/90**

(58) **Field of Search** 135/115, 117,
135/90, 96, 124; 5/111, 113, 121, 414

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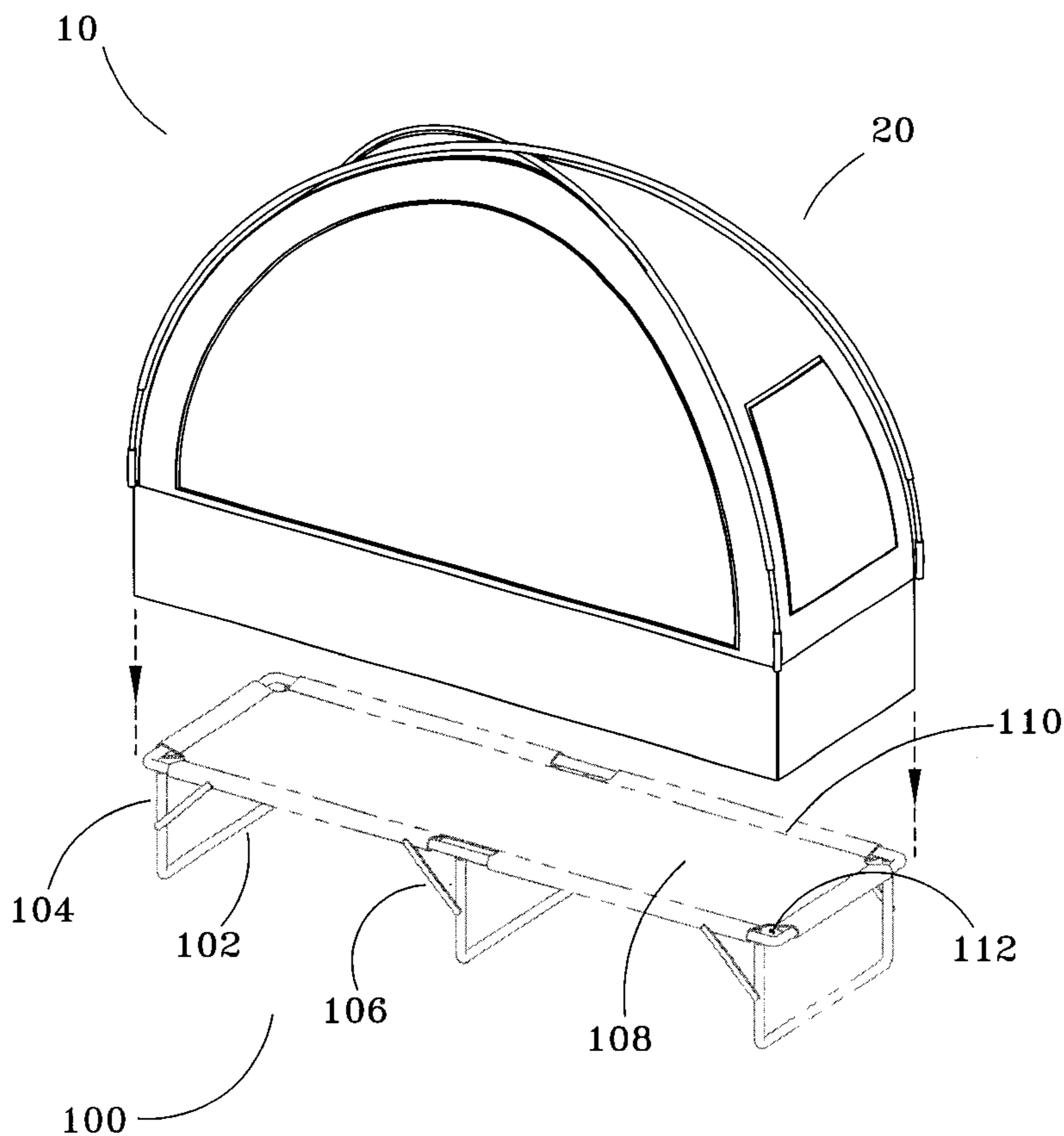
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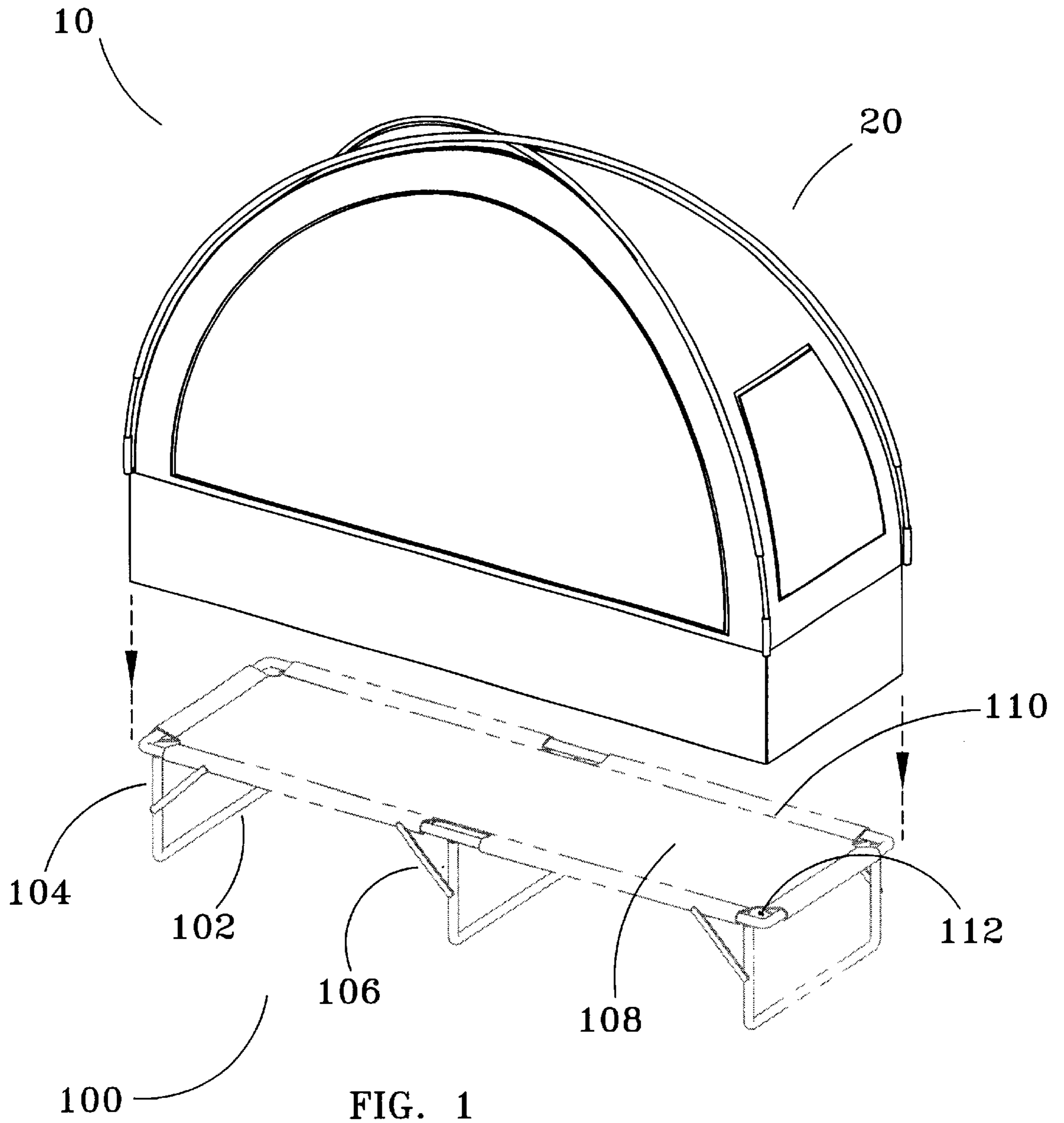
Primary Examiner—Janet M. Wilkens

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A tent is adapted for attachment to a cot. A preferred version of a tent includes a body made of fabric or similar sheet material, with a floor, two ends and two sides. A frame includes first and second frame poles carried within sleeves defined within the fabric body. Four to six fasteners secure the body to the frame of the cot. Each fastener passes around the frame, through a hole defined between the cot frame and cot fabric, and is secured to the bottom of the floor. A rain guard includes two opposed side panels and two opposed end panels. The rain guard prevents rain from pooling on the tent floor or on the horizontal fabric of the cot. Rain moving down the fabric body is guided past the tent floor and cot fabric, where it is released.

2 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets





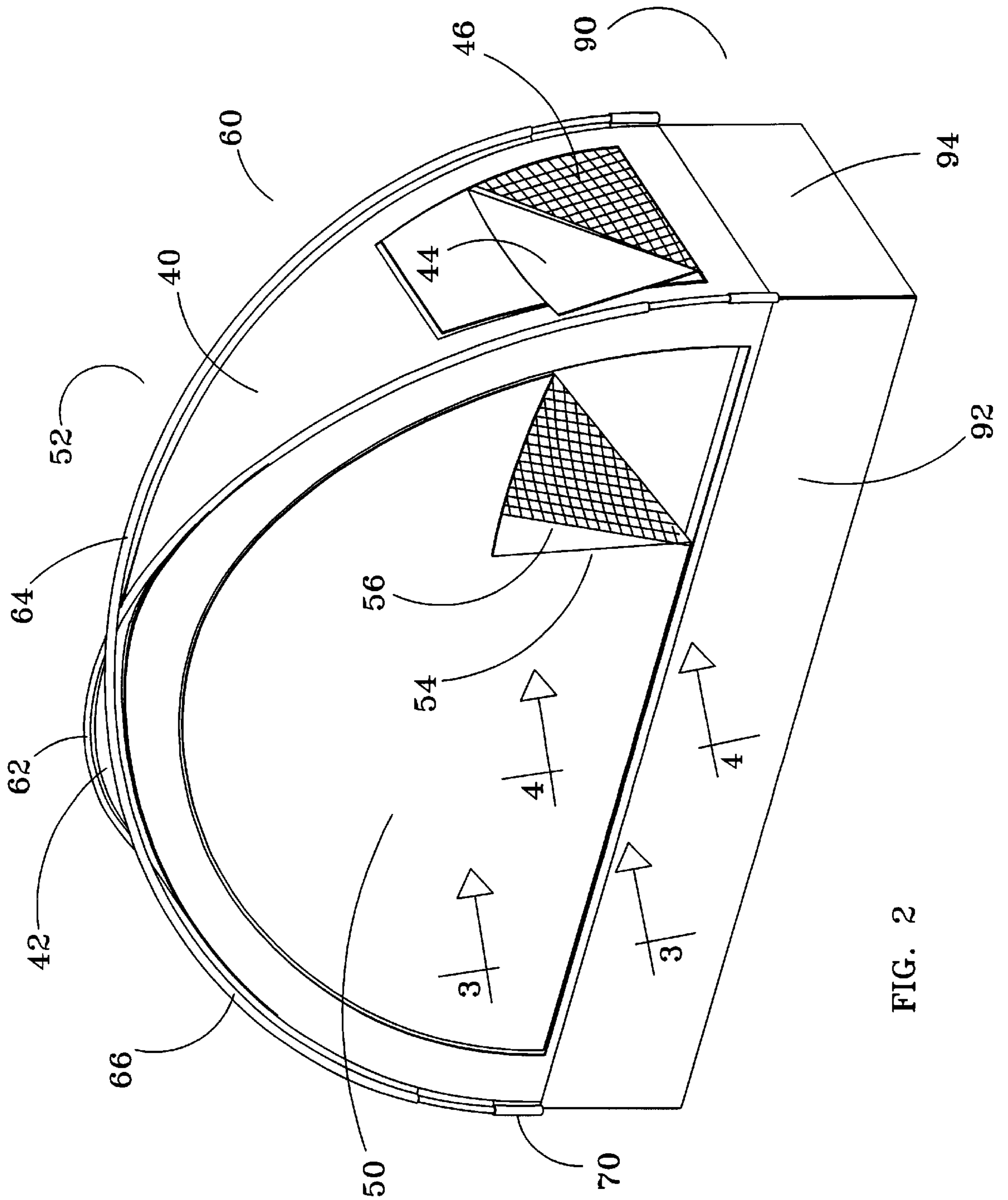


FIG. 2

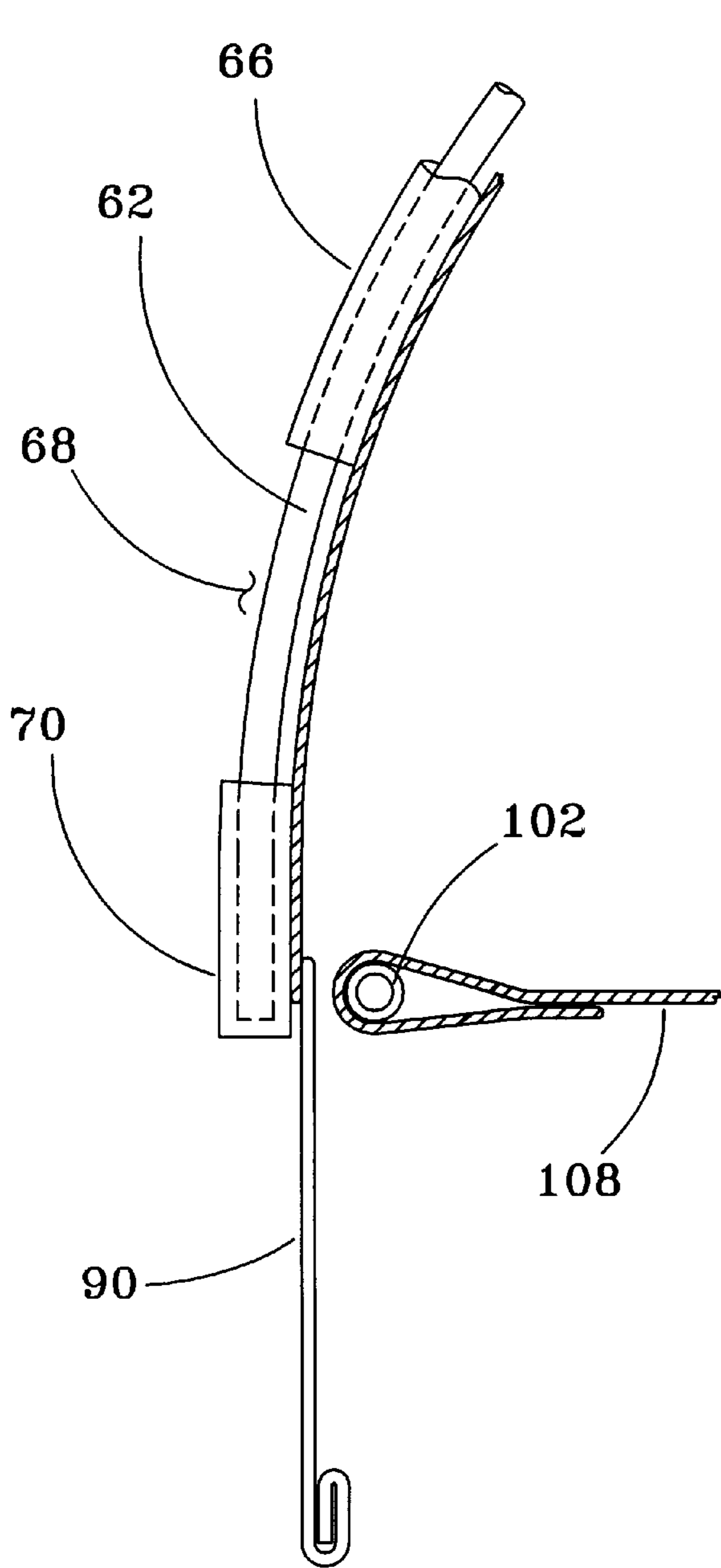


FIG. 3

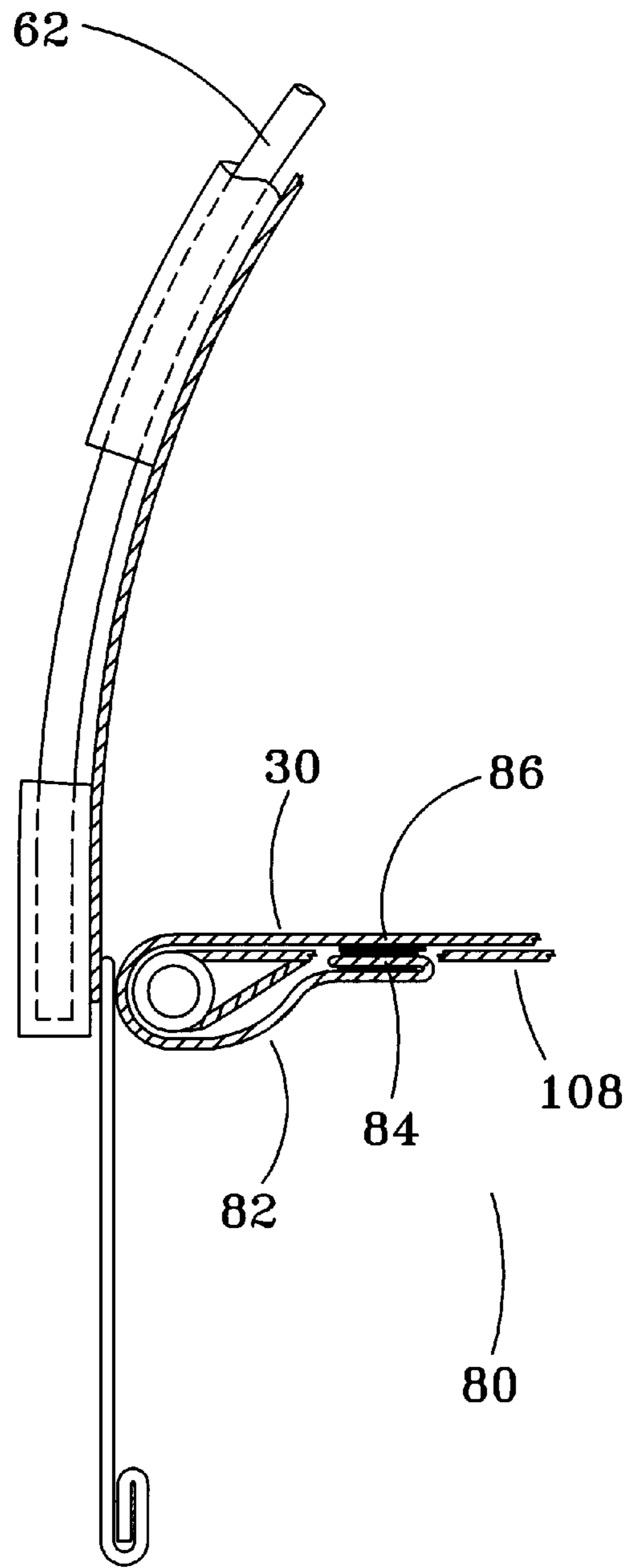


FIG. 4

TENT ADAPTED FOR ATTACHMENT TO A COT

CROSS-REFERENCES

There are no applications related to this application filed in this or any foreign country.

BACKGROUND

Small tents have undergone considerable change in recent years. Small tents previously included only "pup tents," which tended to be heavy to carry and uncomfortable to use. As a result, lighter weight back packing tents have essentially replaced this type of tent. Backpacking tents offer light weight construction, easier set-up and take-down, and tend to provide better service overall.

Unfortunately, while improvements in weight, strength and durability have been made, small tents still tend to be uncomfortable in use. In large part, this is because they are still dependent upon air mattresses and similar devices to support sleeping people. As a result, larger tents, which allow use of cots, are generally perceived as being more comfortable. Unfortunately, tents of a larger size are typically very heavy, and because the tent is typically made in one piece, the weight may not be shared by a number of people.

For the foregoing reasons, there is a need for a smaller tent that includes the advantages of smaller tents, but that also allows the use of cots to provide sleeping comfort in a manner similar to large tents.

SUMMARY

The present invention is directed to an apparatus that satisfies the above needs. A novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot is disclosed that combines the advantages of a small tent with the advantages of large tents, which allow the use of cots.

A tent **10** is adapted for attachment to a cot **100**, particularly a cot of the type having a frame with at least four legs and a generally horizontal fabric panel for the support of a resting individual, wherein four to six holes are defined between the frame and a perimeter of the fabric panel. A preferred version of a tent includes some or all of the components below.

(A) A body **20** is typically made of fabric or similar sheet material, and includes a floor **30**, two ends **40, 42** and two sides **50, 52**.

(B) A frame **60** includes first and second frame poles **62, 64** carried within sleeves defined within the fabric body.

(C) Four to six fasteners **80** secure the body **20** to the frame of the cot. Each fastener passes around the frame, through a hole defined between the cot frame and cot fabric, and is secured to the bottom of the floor **30**. VELCRO(tm) or similar fastening material may be used to secure the fasteners.

(D) A rain guard **90** includes two opposed side panels and two opposed end panels. The rain guard prevents rain from pooling on the tent floor **30** or on the horizontal fabric of the cot. Rain moving down the fabric body is guided past the tent floor and cot fabric, where it is released.

It is therefore a primary advantage of the present invention to provide a novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot wherein a rain guard prevents rain water from accumulating on the floor of the tent or on the surface of the cot.

Another advantage of the present invention is to provide a novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot wherein the tent assembles and disassembles, and attaches and detaches to the cot, without difficulty.

A still further advantage of the present invention is to provide a novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot that combines the light weight and portability of a small tent with the comfort and adaptability for use with a cot found in a large tent.

Other objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of the specification and the accompanying drawings.

DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings where:

FIG. **1** is an exploded perspective view of a version of the tent adapted for attachment to a cot, showing how the tent and cot are related in use.

FIG. **2** is an enlarged perspective view similar to that of FIG. **1**, showing details of a door and window.

FIG. **3** is a cross sectional view according to the **3—3** lines of FIG. **2**, showing the wall and rain guard of the tent and the fabric and frame of the cot.

FIG. **4** is a cross section view according to the **4—4** lines of FIG. **2**, showing the manner in which the fasteners attach to an opening defined between the frame and fabric bed of the cot.

DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW. Referring in generally to FIGS. **1** and **2**, a tent **10** is adapted for attachment to a cot **100**, particularly a cot of the type having a frame **102** with at least four legs **104**, in some cases supported by a brace **106**. A generally horizontal fabric panel **108** is sewn **110** to the frame, and supports a resting individual, wherein the fabric panel defines four to six holes or openings **112** between the frame and a perimeter of the fabric panel. A preferred version of a tent includes a body **20** made of fabric or similar sheet material, with a floor **30**, two ends **40, 42** and two sides **50, 52**. A frame **60** includes first and second frame poles carried within sleeves defined within the fabric body. Four to six fasteners **80** secure the body **20** to the frame of the cot. Each fastener passes around the frame, through a hole defined between the cot frame and cot fabric, and is secured to the bottom surface of the floor **30**. A rain guard **90** includes two opposed side panels and two opposed end panels. The rain guard prevents rain from pooling on the tent floor **30** or on the horizontal fabric of the cot. Rain moving down the fabric body is guided past the tent floor and cot fabric, where it is released.

TENT BODY. A body **20** is typically made of fabric or similar sheet material, and includes a floor **30**, two ends **40, 42** and two sides **50, 52**. One of the sides **50** typically includes a door flap **54** and associated screen door **56**. By placing the door flap on the side, the user is able to enter the tent without collapsing the cot. The opposite side **52** may include a window and screen, if desired.

One or both ends **40, 42** typically include a window flap **44** and screen **46**. The screen is typically sewn closed, while the window flap may be opened as needed.

FRAME. A tent frame **60** includes first and second frame poles **62, 64** carried within sleeves **66** defined within the

fabric body **20**. A sleeve opening **68** allows a pole to be inserted into the sleeve, while a sleeve socket **70** secures the end of the pole.

FASTENERS. Four to six fasteners **80** secure the body **20** to the frame of the cot. Each fastener passes around the frame, through a hole **112** defined between the cot frame and cot fabric, and is secured to the bottom of the floor **30**. VELCRO(tm) or similar fastening material may be used to secure the fasteners. Generally, the number of fasteners **80** is equal to the number of openings **112** defined in the cot to be used.

Referring particularly to FIG. 4, it can be seen that the fastener **80** includes a strap **82**. The strap is passed through the hole or opening **112** in the cot **100**. A first VELCRO(tm) or similar fastener **84** is carried on the end of the strap. A second VELCRO(tm) or similar fastener **86** is carried on the bottom of the tent floor **30**. By passing the strap **82** through the opening **112**, and securing the fasteners **84, 86**, the tent **10** is securely connected to the cot.

RAIN GUARD. A rain guard **90** includes two opposed side panels **92** and two opposed end panels **94**. The rain guard may be a continuous extension of the tent sides and ends, or may be formed of separate panels secured to the perimeter of the floor of the tent. In use, the rain guard prevents rain from pooling on the tent floor **30** or on the horizontal fabric of the cot. Rain moving down the fabric body is guided past the tent floor and cot fabric, where it is released.

ADVANTAGES. The previously described versions of the present invention have many advantages, including a primary advantage of providing a novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot wherein a rain guard prevents rain water from accumulating on the floor of the tent or on the surface of the cot.

Another advantage of the present invention is to provide a novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot wherein the tent assembles and disassembles, and attaches and detaches to the cot, without difficulty.

A still further advantage of the present invention is to provide a novel tent adapted for attachment to a cot that combines the light weight and portability of a small tent with the comfort and adaptability for use with a cot found in a large tent.

Although the present invention has been described in considerable detail and with reference to certain preferred versions, other versions are possible. For example, while a tent adapted for use with a cot having three pair of openings

associated with three double or six individual legs was disclosed, a similar tent, adapted for use with cots of differing number of legs could alternatively be constructed. Therefore, the spirit and scope of the appended claims should not be limited to the description of the preferred versions disclosed.

In compliance with the U.S. patent Laws, the invention has been described in language more or less specific as to methodical features. The invention is not, however, limited to the specific features described, since the means herein disclosed comprise preferred forms of putting the invention into effect. The invention is, therefore, claimed in any of its forms or modifications within the proper scope of the appended claims appropriately interpreted in accordance with the doctrine of equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A tent adapted for attachment to a cot, the tent comprising:
 - (A) a tent body, comprising a floor connected to two end panels and two side panels;
 - (B) a tent frame, comprising first and second frame poles carried within sleeves defined within the tent body;
 - (C) at least four fasteners to secure the tent body to a frame of the cot, each fastener comprising a strap extending from the floor carrying a first fastening material connectable to a second fastening material carried on a lower surface of the floor; and
 - (D) a rain guard, comprising two opposed side panels and two opposed end panels, attached to a perimeter of the floor.
2. A tent and associated cot, comprising:
 - (A) a cot having a frame;
 - (B) a tent body, comprising a floor connected to two end panels and two side panels;
 - (C) a tent frame, comprising first and second frame poles carried within sleeves defined within the tent body;
 - (D) at least four fasteners to secure the tent body to the frame of the cot, each fastener comprising a strap extending from the floor carrying a first fastening material connectable to a second fastening material carried on a lower surface of the floor; and
 - (E) a rain guard, comprising two opposed side panels and two opposed end panels, attached to a perimeter of the floor.

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